



Survivor Outreach Services
Serving Survivors of Illinois' Fallen Soldiers
"Never Forgotten.....Never Alone"
May 2011 Bulletin – 13th Issue

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

SOS was created to embrace and reassure Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire.

The SOS program continuously strives to provide the highest quality of services to surviving Family members of fallen Warriors. As such, we want to provide you with information on the SOS program in your area. We stand ready to serve you and answer your questions.

Services Available:

- Provide Expertise on State & Federal Survivor benefits
- Arrange for estate and financial advice
- Connect Survivors with mental health support/counseling
- Provide assistance in obtaining military reports
- Provide Survivors with resource referrals for:
 - Peer Support
 - Bereavement Counseling
 - Emergency Financial Services
 - Military Legal Assistance
 - TRICARE
 - Educational Benefits
 - Benefits Assistance

Bobby Gillmore, SOS Support Coordinator
Joint Forces Headquarters, 1301 N. MacArthur Blvd, Springfield, IL 62702-2399
(217) 761-3382 office, (217) 316-1191 cell, email: bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil

Jim Frazier, SOS Support Coordinator
Woodstock Armory, 1301 Sunset Ridge Road, Woodstock, IL 60098
(708) 646-5933 cell, email: james.l.frazier.ctr@us.army.mil

Robert Sheahan, SOS Support Coordinator
East St. Louis Armory, 2931 State Street, East St. Louis, IL 62205-2233
(618) 558-4196 cell, email: robert.sheahan@us.army.mil

Dollie Carpenter, SOS Support Coordinator
Building 110, East Avenue, Rock Island, IL
(309) 782-8253 office, email: dollie.carpenter@us.army.mil

Latanya Yarbrough, SOS Support Coordinator
10 S 100 South Frontage Road, Darien, IL 60561-1780
(404) 784-1603 cell, email: latanya.r.yarbrough.ctr@us.army.mil

AUSA president urges elimination of survivor benefit inequities

Emphasizing the Association of the United States Army's strong opposition to survivor benefit inequities that are contained in current law, Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, USA, Ret., AUSA president, has written members of Congress supporting their legislation that would not only address these inequities, but also eliminate them.

In letters to Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Budget Committee, and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., a member of the House Armed Service Committee, Sullivan said their proposed legislation – S.260 and H.R. 178, respectively – would repeal the law requiring a dollar-for-dollar deduction of veterans' benefits for service-connected deaths from military survivors' Survivor Benefit Plan annuity.

The proposed legislation would also prohibit the Department of Defense (DoD) from recouping retired pay refunds previously paid to SBP recipients

Sullivan said in his letters, "On behalf of the more than 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to thank you for introducing [this] legislation." ...

"[AUSA] believes that if military service caused a member's death, the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) that the VA pays their survivor should be added to the SBP benefits the disabled retiree paid for, not substituted for them."

Adding, "In the case of members who died on active duty, a surviving spouse with children can avoid the dollar-for-dollar offset only by assigning SBP to their children. That forces the spouse to give up any SBP claim after the children attain their majority – leaving the spouse with only a \$1,154 monthly indemnity from the VA.

"Surely those who gave their lives for their country deserve fairer compensation for their surviving spouses.

"The elimination of this survivor benefit inequity is a top AUSA legislative goal for 2011. We strongly support your legislation and urge your colleagues to add their names as cosponsors."

Following the Association's Annual Meeting and Exposition in late October, AUSA chapter delegate's ratified resolution 11-04, Military Retirement, that urges Congress to authorize full Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) entitlements to survivors of members whose death was service connected and retention of DIC upon remarriage after age 55 – not 57 as it exists in current law

The resolution further states the law should be repealed that reduces military SBP annuities by the amount of any survivor benefits payable from the DIC program.

Both bills are seeking co-sponsors in the Senate and House.

MOVING SOON?

**Please update your address with
your local SOS Coordinator.**

DRS Scholarship Fund for Children of Fallen

College-bound children of National Guardsmen who lost their lives in support of the war on terrorism can now apply for up to \$25,000 in scholarship funds from DRS Technologies, a New Jersey-based defense contractor.

The Guardian Scholarship Fund will be administered by the National Guard Educational Foundation. The first awards will be made in time for the fall semester this year.

Students will receive up to \$6,250 per year for four years if they attend a four-year institution. For those attending a two-year program at a community college or technical school, the scholarship will provide up to \$6,250 for both years.

Rich Goldberg, DRS senior vice president of public affairs and communications, said the idea grew from his time on the NGEF board, which he joined within the past year as the board's nonmilitary member. He learned about the more than 650 Guardsmen who have died in the war on terrorism.

Goldberg, who is also president of the DRS Charitable Foundation, has helped give millions of dollars to charities, including the USO and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

"We started asking the question, 'What about the children of the 650 [Guardsmen]?' " he said.

The result is the scholarship fund, which will be ongoing.

The adjutants general of the 54 states and territories will be asked to assist in identifying families with children who qualify.

Juniors and seniors in high school, as well as students already in college, are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

A review panel created by NGEF will determine who will receive the funds, which will be paid directly to the school.

A video about the program and an explanation of how to donate to the fund can be seen at www.drsfoundation.net/guard.

Chicago's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade

The Memorial Day Ceremony begins at 11:00 am Saturday, May 28, at the Daley Plaza with remarks by special guests, The Mayor of Chicago, and General Odierno. Gold Star banners will be presented to the Families of Service Men and Women killed in action during the past year. There will be a wreath laying at the Eternal Flame, and 21Gun Salute

The parade will step off at 12:00 pm and proceed south on State Street from Lake Street to Van Buren Street.

This year's Grand Marshal will be General Raymond T. Odierno, United States Army, Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command. During the parade, Odierno will swear in new recruits representing many branches of service.

The General's command focuses on supporting current operations while shaping U.S. forces for the future. He oversees USJFCOM's roles in joint concept development and experimentation, joint capability development, joint training, and force provision and management as outlined in the Department of Defense's Unified Command Plan. Prior to this, Odierno commanded Multi-National Force –Iraq and then U.S. Forces –Iraq. He oversaw the transition from surge to stability operations and directed the largest redeployment of forces and equipment in 40 years. He assumed command of MNF-I less than seven months after completing a 15-month deployment as commanding general of Multi-National Corps-Iraq

Request Military Records Online

Are you looking for a copy of military records for yourself, your deceased service member, spouse, or parent? Working on a genealogy of your family? While most military records are not available online, you can request records like a DD214 by using the system set up by the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).

Fill out the request form online, followed up by a signature card by mail and the NPRC will send record copies to your home. More importantly, the website gives information about the type of records that can be requested, cutting down on response time and answering frequently asked questions.

To learn more about this service, visit www.archives.gov/veterans/.

**Are you interested in joining or
forming a support group?**

**Contact your local SOS Coordinator
for information or assistance.**

**Check out the Illinois Families of Fallen Service Member Task Force
“Community Connections” Resource Guide!**

http://www.nchsd.org/libraryfiles/HDAFiles/Veterans%20Project/IN7511_Resourcesguide.pdf



SOS Financial Counseling Services

Erik Johnson
Darien, IL
(404) 729-6940
erik.d.johson3.ctr@us.army.mil

Mark Dunlop
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
(573) 596-0153
mark.dunlop1@us.army.mil

Building Your Financial House

One of the main objectives of successful financial planning is doing as much as you can to take control of your finances. The more control you have, the less unexpected events will throw you off track and you will increase the sense of financial freedom.

Compare the steps needed to reach your goals to that of building a “financial house” where you want to start with a solid foundation and build up from there. Your foundation should begin by establishing specific goals. Next, you will need to know the status of your current financial position and evaluate your protection needs. With a solid foundation in place, you can begin developing a sound investment strategy, structuring your accounts to minimize taxes, focus on retirement issues, and making sure steps are taken to control the distribution of your estate. Over the next few months we will look at each of these steps in order to provide a blueprint for your “financial house.” With this in mind, let’s begin by looking at establishing financial goals.

Setting Goals

Like any journey in life, you can’t get to your destination if you don’t know where you’re going! So whether your goals include a new car, education funding, new house, retirement, reducing debt, or simply a vacation fund, in order to have the greatest chance of success in reaching them, your goals need to be specific and contain 5 components:

1. **When the goal will occur:** Some goals have a known date like the start of a child’s education, or perhaps a pressing financial need. Other goals may require more thought, like the purchase of a new home or retirement age.
2. **Cost and duration of your goal:** How much of a down payment will you need? During retirement, what income would provide a comfortable lifestyle? How long will you need that income? Will your child attend a public or private school? What other funding sources are available?

3. **Lump sum needed when goal occurs:** What amount will you need to support the cost and duration of your financial goal when it begins?

4. **Amount needed monthly to achieve goal:** How much do you need to save per month so that your lump sum amount will be adequate?

5. **Rate of return on savings required:** What rate of return do your savings need to average so that you can keep pace with the cost of your goals?

The more specific your answers to the above questions are, the easier it will be to plan the rest of your “financial house.” Feel free to contact a SOS financial counselor if you need help! Next month, we’ll look at establishing a solid financial position.

The below is for informational purposes only, and is not intended to imply endorsement by the Illinois National Guard or Survivor Outreach Services Program of any event, organization, corporation, or product.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Illinois National Guard Fallen Heroes Event

May 14, 2011 - Ceremony begins at 1:00 PM

Camp Lincoln

1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.

Springfield, IL 62702-2399

RSVP to Bob Gillmore (217) 761-3382

Or Bobby.Gillmore@us.army.mil

Chicago's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade

May 28, 2011

Daley Plaza

Ceremony begins at 11:00 AM

Parade begins at 12:00 PM

17TH ANNUAL TAPS NATIONAL MILITARY SURVIVOR SEMINAR AND GOOD GRIEF CAMP FOR YOUNG SURVIVORS

Memorial Day Weekend | May 27th - 30th, 2011

Crystal Gateway Marriott

Jefferson Davis Highway | Arlington Virginia

www.taps.org

(800) 959-TAPS (8277)

Discussion/Support Group

June 4, 2011 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Illinois Families of Fallen Service Member Task Force

Institute for Psychoanalysis

122 South Michigan Avenue, Room 1323

Chicago, IL 60603

RSVP to Polly Everett* 312-922-7474, ext. 309

or Judy Schiffman* 312-922-7474, ext. 310

PFC Geoffrey Morris

Memorial Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament

2011 Tournament Dates

24 - 25 June - Pro Division

Saturday, June 25 – Am Division (1 Day Only)

Heroes of Freedom Fishing Derby - Sunday, June 26, 2011

<http://www.gsmtournament.com/>

Run for the Fallen

August 20 & 21, 2011

www.runforthe fallen.org

Gold Star Mother's Day

September 25, 2011

National Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony

December 10, 2011; 12 Noon EST

www.wreathsassamerica.org

877-385-9504

Helpful Contacts and Resources:

Military OneSource

12 free sessions per issue from a counselor in your area (no cost)
1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.com

Department of Veterans Affairs

Free counseling for all family members including spouses, children, parents and siblings (no cost) 1-800-827-1000 or <http://www.va.gov>

TRICARE

Health and Dental Insurance
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

1-800-959-TAPS (8277) or www.taps.org

Social Security Administration

1-800-772-1213 or <http://www.ssa.gov>

Defense Finance & Accounting Office

1-800-321-1080 or www.dfas.mil

National Military Families Association (NMFA)

<http://www.militaryfamily.org>

Gold Star Wives of America

1-888-751-6350 or <http://www.goldstarwives.org/>

American Gold Star Mothers

202-265-0991 or <http://www.goldstarmoms.com/>

Please feel free to email me at bobby.gillmore@us.army.mil with any comments, information, or events that may benefit other Survivors. If you know other Survivors that would like to receive future additions of this bulletin, please have them send me an email with the following information:

Name:

Fallen Heroes Name & Branch:

Relationship:

EMAIL Address: